(b) Under the 8th Five Year Plan, the Deptt. has installed and commissioned 40 computer-based counter machines in 12 post offices in Orissa, to provide efficient counter services.

(c) Till date, 1779 computer-based counter machines have been installed and commissioned in 659 post offices in the other States.

(d) During the current year, 1995-96, 45 more such machines are proposed to be installed and commissioned in 24 post offices in Orissa. Among them two major post offices namely Bhubaneshwar GPO and Cuttack GPO with Local Area Network (LAN), will provide computerised Savings Bank service also.

Clearance of Hydel Projects For Kerala

174. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Hydel Projects of the State of Kerala are pending for clearance with the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, whether it includes the Poiniguti Hydel Project also; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to clear these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No sir.

(b) and (c) There is no project under the name of Poiniguti Hydel Project received by this Ministry. However there is one project under the name of Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project, which was cleared from environmental angle in June, 1985. But it was formally rejected under the forest conservation act 1980; in January, 1991. The State Government have represented for its reconsideration which is under examination.

Licences to the Highest Bidder in Telecom Services

175. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of auctioning the Licences to the highest bidder will go against the national Telecom Policy promise to provide not only Universal Telecom services but also affordable one; and

(b) whether there is increasing apprehension that private operators of both basic and value added will be forced to raise tariffs as they have to pay heavy licence fees and also meet their tax obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir,

(b) In the case of Basic Telephone services, the tender condition specifies that the private operator cannot charge tariff more than that Department of Telecom. In the case of Value added services also the Department of Telecom has fixed the ceiling tariff and the licencees can only charge equal to or less than the ceiling tariff.

Wait Listed Applications for Telephone Connections in Delhi

176. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the exchage-wise details of wait listed applications for grant of telephone connections under different categories in Delhi as on date; and

(b) by when it will be possible to instal telephones on demand in Delhi and other metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS